

C O V E R

S H E E T

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To: Mr. Bruce H. Hess
Primary Examiner
Firm: United States Patent and Trademark Office
TC/A.U. 1774
Fax #: 571-273-1525
From: Ronald J. Kubovcik
Date: October 14, 2004
Pages : 20 including this cover sheet.
Re : U.S. Patent Appln. S.N. 10/067,918
By: Shigekazu SHUKU et al.
Our Ref: SAE-027

Dear Mr. Hess:

Enclosed is an amendment (and appendix) in which the process claims have been amended in an effort to place this application in condition for allowance. Minor amendments have also been made to product claims 1, 17 and 18.

If you have any questions or if modifications to the amendment are required, please call me at 202-887-9023.

Regards,


Ronald J. Kubovcik

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**PATENT
NON-FINAL**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/067,918 Confirmation No. 8669
Applicant : Shigekazu SHUKU et al.
Filed : February 8, 2002
TC/A.U. : 1774
Examiner : Bruce H. Hess
Dkt. No. : SAE-027
Cust. No. : 20374

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

October 14, 2004

Sir:

Please amend the claims of the subject application as shown below.